

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CG-00

IO-13 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /155 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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SUBJ: ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE OPENS JULY 9

REF: CANBERRA 3662

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE OPENED JULY 9 WITH CUSTOMARY APPEALS FOR UNITY AND AVOIDANCE OF FACTIONALISM. INITIAL AREAS OF DISCUSSION CONCERNED URBAN AND MINERALS POLICY, WITH NO SURPRISES SO FAR. DEBATE ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY AND ON ECONOMIC POLICY NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY FEDERAL CONFERENCE OPENED JULY 9 AT SURFER'S PARADISE, QUEENSLAND, WITH NEWLY-ELECTED PARTY PRESIDENT, R.J. HAWKE (WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF ACTU) ISSUING CUSTOMARY CALL FOR PARTY UNITY AND AVOIDANCE OF FACTIONAL QUARRELS. HAWAKE HAD BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT AT ALP FEDERAL EXECUTIVE MEETING JULY 5, ALONG WITH JACK EGERTON (SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT), JOHN DUCKER (JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT), DAVID COMBE (SECRETARY), AND SENATOR JUSTION O'BYRNE (TREASURER). ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF EUPHORIA THAT LABOR IS IN CONTROL

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OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND DELEGATES ARE CLEARLY

ENJOYING THEIR STAY AT ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST POPULAR BEACH RESORTS.

3. BULK OF DISCUSSION JULY 9 WAS ON URBAN AND MINERALS POLICY. FEDERAL MINISTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TOM UREN, HAD ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE IN THE PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY. THIS WAS REJECTED BY THE CONFERENCE, ON THE BASIS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD AMPLE POWER TO DEVELOP SUCH A POLICY IF IT DESIRED. CONFERENCE APPROVED A RESOLUTION MAKING UREN'S DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THE FOCUS OF MUNICIPAL PLANNING.

4. MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR EASILY WON CONFERENCE ENDORSEMENT FOR EXCLUSIVELY FEDERAL CONTROL OVER QTE EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PRICE, MARKETING AND USE END QTE O FOSSIL FUELS, URANIUM AND HYDRO-POWER. STATE ALP LEADERS (TONKIN OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, DUNSTAN OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND HOLDING OF VICTTAIA) SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO WIN A VOICE FOR STATE GOVERNMENTS IN CONNOR'S PROPOSED NATIONAL FUEL AND ENERGY COMMISSION BUT HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH THE SOP THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT THE STATES THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN MINING COUNCIL, AN ADVISORY STATE-FEDERAL BODY. ONE NEWSPAPER CONCLUDED ACIDLY THAT THIS CONCESSION MERELY MEANS THAT CANBERRA WILL QTE AT LEAST SPEAK TO THE STATES BEFORE DISREGARDING THEIR VIEWS. END QTE.

5. CONNOR ALSO REPEATED HIS NOW FAMILIAR CRITICISMS OF AUSTRALIAN MINING EXECUTIVES AS INEPT QTE HILLBILLIES END QTE WHO KNOW LESS ABOUT THEIR INDUSTRY THAN THEIR JAPANESE CUSTOMERS WHO BUY THEIR OUTPUT. HE SAID MINING EXECUTIVES OFTEN SELL EXPORTS TOO CHEAPLY. CONNOR AGAIN VOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILWFNOT ALLOW FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LOCAL MINERALS AND FUELS TO RISE FURTHER AND WILL DIRECTLY CONDUCT EXPLORATION ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.

6. DISCUSSIONS OF AREAS OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST TO U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES INCLUDING INVESTMENTL ARE NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL JUL 12. OPPONENTS OF PROJECT OMEGA ARE ACTIVELY DISTRIBUTING SCARE PROPAGANDA CONCERNING OMEGA, INCLUDING THE OLD CHESTNUT THAT IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH U.S. NUCLEAR MISSILE SYSTEMS. OUR CONSUL IN BRISBANE , WHO IS ATTENDING CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER, REPORTS THAT INDICATEIONS ARE THAT CONFERENCE MAY REJECT OMEGA, WHILE IN EFFECT ALLOWING

MAJOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS EVENING OF JULY 10.

7 CONFERENCE WILL NOT MEET JULY 11 TO PERMIT BULK OF DELEGATES TO FLY TO MELBOURNE TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF FORMER ALP FEDERAL LEADER ARTHUR CALWELL, WHO DIED IN MELBOURNE JULY 8. OUR ACTING CONSUL GENERAL IN MELBOURNE WILL REPRESENT AMBASSADOR AT FUNERAL.

8. FOREGOING HIGH POINTS OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITY ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE ANALYSIS OF EMERGING ALP PLATFORM. WE WILL PLAN TO SUBMIT FULLER ANALYSIS AT END OF CONFERENCE, WHEN DOCUMENTATION IS RECEIVED, TO BE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO WHITLAM VISIT JULY 30.
GREEN

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